

## Cabinet Response: Domestic Violence

**Review Title:** Addressing Domestic Violence and Abuse in Buckinghamshire

**T&F Group Chairman:** Lesley Clarke

**Date reported to Cabinet:** 14 May 2012

**Lead Cabinet Member:** Martin Phillips

**Lead Officer:** Susie Yapp

Recommendation	Agreed Yes/No	Cabinet Response including proposed action	Responsible Cabinet Member	Responsible Officer	Action by date
<p><b>1:</b> That the County Council must continue to seek and make the most of opportunities to highlight the issue of domestic violence and abuse, to try to ensure that it remains a priority for the Thames Valley under the new Police and Crime Commissioner.</p>	<p>Yes (subject to resources)</p>	<p>The County Council Community Safety Team will continue to work with members to raise awareness, through LAFs of the importance of addressing domestic violence and will provide training and support to members.</p> <p>A Thames Valley wide briefing paper on Domestic Violence has been prepared for PCC candidates and will be posted on Community safety partners websites.</p> <p>Cabinet agrees that the County Council will work to raise the profile of this area of work and the concerns raised by the Task &amp; Finish Group with the new Police and Crime Panel and the new Police and Crime Commissioner, once elected.</p> <p>Cabinet requested that this report is drawn to the attention of the new Police and Crime Panel and also to the other authorities in the Thames Valley.</p> <p>The Community Safety e-learning module will be further developed to include a case study on domestic violence that will include a partnership response</p>	<p>Martin Phillips</p>	<p>Susie Yapp</p>	<p>All LAFs will have been offered DV presentation by July 2012. Presentations to be delivered by October 2012</p> <p>August 2012</p>
<p><b>2:</b> That commissioning for domestic violence and abuse services must be joined up across the County Council. Equality Impact Assessments should be</p>	<p>Yes (subject to resources)</p>	<p>The officers from Localities and Safer Communities, Adults and Family Wellbeing and Children's and Young People's commissioning services have convened a small group and will sit</p>	<p>Martin Phillips</p> <p>With support from Mike Appleyard Val Letheren</p>	<p>Susie Yapp</p>	<p>Commence the tender processes for YPs DV services</p>

carried out for each commissioning decision to ensure a holistic approach is taken that considers the impact of decisions on different groups, and specifically on victims, children and perpetrators.		<p>under the governance framework of the Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership Board. At this stage there is no proposition to pool budgets, but align them and follow an integrated approach to commissioning. Equality Impact Assessments should be undertaken as appropriate, in accordance with normal practice.</p> <p>From the commissioning perspective we will monitor the positive impact of the close working happening between Children's social care and Thames Valley police</p>	Patricia Birchley		e.g.Children's therapeutic work, Freedom programme co-ordination, by end of July 2012
<b>3:</b> That decisions about changes to funding of commissioned domestic violence and abuse services should be agreed by all relevant Cabinet Members, not just the Cabinet Member with responsibility for the budget. This will ensure that there is an understanding of the impact of any changes for all services and groups affected.	Yes	Funding beyond the current financial year will be subject to the Council's MTP process. In considering any changes to funding, the Cabinet Member with responsibility for the budget should consult other relevant Cabinet Members and have regard to their comments.	<p>Martin Phillips</p> <p>With support from Mike Appleyard Val Letheren Patricia Birchley</p>	Susie Yapp	As appropriate during MTP development
<b>4:</b> That the 2012-2015 Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy includes an action to develop effective work with GPs on the issue of DVA, through appropriate structures such as the Health and Wellbeing Board and the PCT's Clinical Commissioning Board. Aims of the work should be to raise GPs' understanding of DVA and the support services that are available for those affected.	Yes (subject to resources)	<p>Draft Strategy includes this is under Priority Three – Awareness raising and training and is addressed by the action: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To develop effective work with GPs on the issue of DVA, through appropriate structures such as the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Clinical Commissioning Board and the Primary care Collaboratives. Aims of the work should be to raise GPs' understanding of DVA</li> </ul>	<p>Martin Phillips</p> <p>With Support from Patricia Birchley</p>	Susie Yapp	Progress made by end of March 2013
<b>5:</b> The Domestic Violence Publicity Group should seek support from the corporate Communications team to develop a thorough communications and engagement plan to include targeting of schools, GP surgeries, Sure Start Children's Centres and libraries, and the use of social media. The plan should	Yes (subject to resources)	<p>Develop and agree a DV communications and engagement plan, with advice from the Communications team</p> <p>Implement DV communications and engagement plan</p>	Martin Phillips	Susie Yapp	<p>September 2012</p> <p>September 2013 but with progress</p>

also include work to engage councillors and officers at all levels of local government so that they can raise awareness of domestic violence and abuse through their networks.					made by March 2013
<b>6:</b> That the 2012-2015 Domestic Violence and Abuse strategy includes an action to establish mechanisms to consult DVA service users in order to identify steps that will make support services more accessible to those affected by DVA. This should particularly focus on working with groups who are known to be under-represented in accessing services.	Yes (subject to resources)	The Draft Domestic Violence Strategy includes this under Priority 2 Victim Support and Engagement: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To establish a Victim Focus Group, to get the views of victims and their children to help with the development of services</li> </ul>	Martin Phillips	Susie Yapp	End of September 2012
<b>7:</b> That the 2012-2015 Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy includes an action to develop and implement a flexible plan for engaging with schools about DVA in the changing climate of school governance. The plan should aim to facilitate relevant voluntary organisations being able to work in schools in the county to carry out preventative education around DVA, investigate opportunities for using educational theatre and youth conferences, and should include appropriate targeted work for children and young people of minority backgrounds.	Yes (subject to resources)	The Draft Domestic Violence Strategy includes this under Priority 5 which relates to working with vulnerable children and families: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scope the project to help develop a strategy for engaging with schools, initially scoping those schools who have had to face significant issues associated with Domestic Violence</li> <li>Assess the needs and outcomes required from effective engagement with schools</li> <li>develop and consult on the programme content</li> <li>train relevant school staff to support the roll-out and look to pilot the roll out to around 5 schools by March 2013 with the remaining schools being completed during the following year.</li> <li>To develop and roll-out a programme of lessons on healthy relationships and DVA for primary and secondary schools across the county, including training relevant school staff to support the roll-out</li> </ul>	Martin Phillips  With support from Mike Appleyard	Susie Yapp	Scoping completed by Sept 2012  Initial roll out and piloting to commence by March 2013

<p><b>8:</b> That in advance of taking the decision on whether the local authority will continue to coordinate school admissions under the new Admissions Code which comes into force in September 2013, the County Council's School Admissions Team should consult with both Aylesbury and Wycombe Women's Aids and take into account the school admissions needs of families living in refuge accommodation.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>As part of our consultation on the co-ordination of school admissions, the County Council will consult Women's Aid in Aylesbury and Wycombe, together with other appropriate bodies.</p>	<p>Mike Appleyard</p>	<p>Debbie Munday</p>	<p>September 2013</p>
<p><b>9:</b> That if the decision is taken that the local authority continues to coordinate school admissions beyond September 2013, a target is set that school places for children in refuge accommodation should be found within one week of their application.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The County Council aims to have found a school place for all students within 15 working days. The target for families experiencing domestic violence should be in line with that practice.</p>	<p>Mike Appleyard</p>	<p>Debbie Munday</p>	<p>September 2013</p>
<p><b>10:</b> That the 2012-2015 Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy includes an action to engage with Registered Providers (housing associations) to ensure they have fit for purpose Domestic Violence and Abuse Policies, which require them to respond pro-actively to cases of DVA occurring in their properties, to support victims and take appropriate action towards perpetrators. This work should include further research into best practice in this area, which should become the standard for all Registered Providers (housing associations) across Buckinghamshire.</p>	<p>Yes (subject to resources)</p>	<p>The Draft Domestic Violence Strategy includes this under Priority 2 Victim Support and Engagement: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a paper to take to the County Housing strategy (Bucks Chief Housing Officers Group) to raise awareness of the RSLs need for robust DV policies and to determine the most efficient and effective way to engage with the Registered Providers currently (housing associations) to help them to ensure their Domestic Violence and Abuse Policies are fit for purpose.</li> </ul>	<p>Martin Phillips</p>	<p>Susie Yapp</p>	<p>By end of June 2012</p>
<p><b>11:</b> That updates on progress against the recommendations in this report should be made to the Overview and Scrutiny Commissioning Committee in 6 and 12 months time.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>A report will be prepared by the officer as required</p>	<p>Martin Phillips</p>	<p>Susie Yapp</p>	<p>End of Nov 2012 and end of April 2013</p>